



Swanson Bark
Wood Products, Inc.

April 6, 2000

Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Lower Snake River Study
201 N. Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Gentlemen:

People need to survive, fish need to survive. Hopefully the two can cohabitate the globe. If we breach dams it is my belief, based on having been a farmer in part of my life, that we won't significantly help salmon. Although dams are a small part of the total problem, the cost to humans in terms of loss of electricity, loss of flood control, loss of irrigation, far out-weigh the incremental benefit to the salmon. With technology we could probably figure another way to help the salmon rather than tearing the dams down.

We live down-stream in the Longview Kelso area, which is a diked and pumped town. If the Columbia River were allowed to fluctuate much more than it has, we could have been swimming in late 1995 and early 1996. Every time we tear a dam out we are cutting the pools that help control flood, power, and irrigation water and although scientists talk about the heating of water, shallow water has just as much chance to heat as a deep pool in terms of actual Btu gain per gallon so I am not of the opinion that tearing the dams out will create any giant benefit.

I have followed and researched the best I could all of the studies done on the benefits to remove the dams and my belief, both as an individual person, as a sportsman, as a farmer and as a resident of this area, is that the dams should not be removed.

If you have questions, or I can help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John Leber
President